

Claims:

1. A picture selling system using the internet, comprising:
  - a picture provider for providing pictures through the internet network;
  - 5 a picture purchaser for viewing the pictures exhibited at a given virtual gallery through the internet network and requesting purchase of a desired picture among the exhibited pictures;
  - a picture mediation server connected to the internet network, for receiving the pictures from the picture provider to exhibit those pictures at the virtual gallery and
  - 10 converting the desired picture which the purchaser wants to buy into a dedicated electronic picture file, at the request of the picture purchaser; and
  - a picture selling agency for receiving the dedicated electronic picture file through the internet network to restore the file to a picture requested by the picture purchaser, and for outputting the restored picture through a given printer and
  - 15 automatically deleting the dedicated electronic picture file at the same time.
2. The picture selling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the picture provider is an artist who paints the pictures or a second picture mediation server for storing pictures of various kinds.
- 20 3. The picture selling system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the picture mediation server comprises:
  - a picture information database for storing the pictures received from the picture provider and data on the pictures;
  - 25 a frame information database for storing information on the size, kind and

material of the frame for packing the desired picture of the purchaser;

a member information database for storing information on the picture provider, the picture purchaser and the picture selling agency;

a purchase information database for storing purchase information of the purchaser for a picture which the purchaser makes purchase request of the picture;

a web server for converting a picture corresponding to purchase information into the dedicated electronic picture file and entirely controlling respective constitution elements of the system; and

a mail server for transmitting the purchase information and the dedicated electronic picture file to the picture selling agency.

4. The picture selling system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the picture information database further includes information on the royalty of the picture, which is agreed with the artist in advance, depending on the frequency number where the picture of the artist is transmitted.

5. The picture selling system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the picture provider further comprises a second picture mediation server for storing pictures of various kinds

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6. The picture selling system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the picture mediation server connects the second picture mediation server to its web site in agreement with the mediation server in advance, and wherein if the purchaser requests a picture included in the second picture mediation server, the picture mediation server converts the picture requested by the purchaser into the dedicated electronic picture file

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and then directly sends the picture from the second picture server to the picture selling agency.

7. The picture selling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the picture  
5 mediation server comprises a payment system for confirming receipt of money corresponding to the picture which the picture purchaser selected.

8. A picture selling method using the internet, comprising the steps of:  
by a web server that inputs pictures provided from a picture provider through the  
10 internet network and data related to the pictures, classifying these data to construct a picture information database;

after the purchaser views the pictures provided from the picture information database, receiving a picture to be purchased by the purchaser among the viewed pictures and purchase information containing packing information thereof from the  
15 purchaser;

according to purchase information of the purchaser, converting the picture wanted by the purchaser into a dedicated electronic picture file, and then transmitting the dedicated electronic picture file to a picture selling agency nearest to the purchaser through the internet network; and

20 restoring the dedicated electronic picture file transmitted to the picture selling agency through the internet network to output the picture wanted by the purchaser, and automatically deleting the dedicated electronic picture file from the picture selling agency at the same time.

25 9. The picture selling method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of

constructing the picture information database comprises the steps of:

by the picture provider, registering the web server as a member;

by the picture provider, logging on the web server;

allocating a virtual gallery space for exhibiting the pictures provided by the

5 picture provider;

requesting, to the picture provider, information necessary to register the pictures to be exhibited at the virtual gallery space; and

receiving information on the picture provider, as requested, and then storing it at the picture information database.

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10. The picture selling method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of storing the royalty that was agreed with the picture provider in advance, depending on the frequency number where the pictures provided by the picture provider are used.

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11. The picture selling method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of paying a given royalty to the picture provider, depending on the frequency number where a corresponding picture is transmitted referring to the picture information database.

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12. The picture selling method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the deletion step comprises the step of edition including change of a letter style and a letter size or composition with other images in the restored picture.

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13. The picture selling method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the

transmission step comprises the step of confirming whether money corresponding to the picture which the purchaser selected has been received.

14. A picture selling program using the internet, which causes pictures  
5 provided by a picture provider to be exhibited at a virtual gallery and a picture selected by a picture purchaser, of the pictures exhibited at the virtual gallery to be outputted through a picture selling agency, through the internet network comprising:

a means for storing the pictures provided by the picture provider and data relating to the pictures, and exhibiting the pictures at the virtual gallery;

10 a means for converting the picture which the purchaser wants to purchase, of the pictures exhibited at the virtual gallery, into a dedicated electronic picture file;

a means for transmitting the dedicated electronic picture file and purchase information of the purchaser to a picture selling agency nearest to the purchaser; and

a means for restoring the dedicated electronic picture file transmitted to the  
15 picture selling agency to output it through a given printer, and deleting the outputted dedicated electronic picture file.

15. The picture selling program as claimed in claim 14, wherein the exhibition means comprises:

20 a means for registering the picture provider as a member and authenticating the registered member;

a means for storing the pictures provided by a picture provider registered as a member and allocating the stored pictures to the virtual gallery for exhibition;

a means for making requests for picture information to the picture provider in  
25 order to input pictures to be exhibited at the allocated virtual gallery space;

a means for deciding the royalty of the picture based on the frequency number where the picture is transmitted, together with the picture provider;

a means for storing picture purchase information of the picture purchaser; and

5 a means for storing packing information of the picture to be purchased according to purchase information.

16. The picture selling program as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a means for confirming receipt of money corresponding to the picture which the purchaser wanted to buy.

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17. The picture selling program as claimed in claim 14, wherein the deletion means comprises:

a means for receiving the dedicated electronic picture file and purchase information;

15 a means for restoring the dedicated electronic picture file to display a picture wanted by the purchaser on a given monitor; and

a means for outputting the picture based on purchase information.

18. The picture selling program as claimed in claim 17, further comprising  
20 a means for replacing a letter style, changing the size of the letter style and composing images in the displayed picture.